IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting a malignant tumor in a human subject, comprising:

(a) collecting a sample of a bodily substance containing human nucleic acid or protein, said nucleic acid or protein having originated from cells of the human subject;

(b) detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression for laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4*-specific mRNA, wherein the *laminin α4*-specific mRNA encodes a functional laminin α4 subunit; and

(c) comparing the expression level in (b) to a level of expression in a normal control, wherein overexpression of laminin α4 subunit protein or laminin α4-specific mRNA, with respect to the control, indicates the presence of a malignant tumor in the human subject.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bodily substance is blood, urine, lymph, cerebro-spinal fluid, skin, stroma, vascular epithelium, oral epithelium, vaginal epithelium, cervical epithelium, uterine epithelium, intestinal epithelium, bronchial epithelium, esophageal epithelium, or mesothelium.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bodily substance is a tissue sample.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the tissue sample is collected from the brain of the subject.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the tissue sample is a tumor tissue.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bodily substance is plasma.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the bodily substance is a cellular material.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the cellular material is derived from the human subject's brain kidney, bladder, ureter, urethra, thyroid, parotid gland, submaxillary gland, sublingual gland, lymph node, bone, cartilage, lung, mediastinum, breast, uterus, ovary, testis, prostate, cervix uteri, endometrium, pancreas, liver, spleen, adrenal, esophagus, stomach, or intestine.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the cellular material is a carcinoma, sarcoma, lymphoma, mesothelioma, melanoma, glioma, nephroblastoma, glioblastoma, oligodendroglioma, astrocytoma, ependymoma, primitive neuroectodermal tumor, atypical meningioma, malignant meningioma, or neuroblastoma.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the cellular material is a hyperplastic and/or cytologically dysplastic cellular growth or proliferation that is benign prostatic hyperplasia/dysplasia or cervical hyperplasia/dysplasia.

11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring RNA.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring cDNA.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein a gene expression microarray is used to detect the level of expression of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising detecting the overexpression of laminin β1 subunit protein or *laminin* β*1*-specific mRNA relative to the normal control.

17. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 1, further comprising detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression with respect to a normal control, of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 3, transforming growth factor-β-induced gene, vascular endothelial growth factor, connective tissue growth factor, human insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 5, placental growth factor, transcription factor Ap-2, human insulin-like growth factor II, epidermal growth factor receptor, matrix metalloproteinase-2, keratin 18, vimentin, fibronectin 1, phospholipase A2 receptor, desmoplakin, tropomodulin, tenascin C, and collagen type IV α1 chain, or detecting a combination of expression levels for any of these.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing the presence of a glioma in a human subject, comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from the brain of the human subject;

(b) detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression for laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4*-specific mRNA, wherein the *laminin α4*-specific mRNA encodes a functional laminin α4 subunit; and

(c) comparing the expression level in (b) to a level of expression in a normal control, wherein overexpression of laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4-specific* mRNA, with respect to the control, indicates the presence of glioma in the subject.

19-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring RNA.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring cDNA.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18 wherein a gene expression microarray is used to detect the level of expression of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising detecting the overexpression of laminin β1 subunit protein or *laminin* β*1*-specific mRNA relative to the normal control.

25. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 18, further comprising detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression with respect to a normal control, of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 3, transforming growth factor-β-induced gene, vascular endothelial growth factor, connective tissue growth factor, human insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 5, placental growth factor, transcription factor Ap-2, human insulin-like growth factor II, epidermal growth factor receptor, matrix metalloproteinase-2, keratin 18, vimentin, fibronectin 1, phospholipase A2 receptor, desmoplakin, tropomodulin, tenascin C, and collagen type IV α1 chain, or detecting a combination of expression levels for any of these.

26. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 18, wherein the sample is a tumor tissue.

27. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 18, wherein the sample comprises plasma.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the recurrence of a malignant tumor in a human subject from whom a tumor has been resected, comprising:

(a) obtaining a tissue sample from the human subject, said tissue sample being from a region adjacent to the site of the tumor;

(b) detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively a level of expression for laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4-specific* mRNA, wherein the *laminin α4*-specific mRNA encodes a functional laminin α4 subunit in the sample; and

(c) comparing the expression level in (b) to a level of expression in a normal tissue control, wherein overexpression of laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4*-specific mRNA, with respect to the control, is predictive of a recurrence of a malignant tumor in the subject.

29. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 28, wherein the tissue sample is histopathologically normal in appearance.

30 -31 (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring RNA.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring cDNA.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein a gene expression microarray is used to detect the level of expression of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA.

35. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 28, further comprising detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression with respect to a normal tissue control, of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 3, transforming growth factor-β-induced gene, vascular endothelial growth factor, connective tissue growth factor, human insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 5, placental growth factor, transcription factor Ap-2, human insulin-like growth factor II, epidermal growth factor receptor, matrix metalloproteinase-2, keratin 18, vimentin, fibronectin 1, phospholipase A2 receptor, desmoplakin, tropomodulin, tenascin C, and collagen type IV α1 chain, or detecting a combination of expression levels for any of these.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising detecting the overexpression of laminin β1 subunit protein or *laminin β1*-specific mRNA relative to the normal tissue control.

37-43 (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the recurrence of a glioma in a human subject from whom a glioma has been resected, comprising:

(a) obtaining a tissue sample from the brain of the human subject, said tissue sample being from a region adjacent to the site of the glioma;

(b) detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively a level of expression for laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4*-specific mRNA, wherein the *laminin α4*-specific mRNA encodes a functional laminin α4 subunit in the sample; and

(c) comparing the expression level in (b) to a level of expression in a normal tissue control, wherein overexpression of laminin α4 subunit protein or *laminin α4*-specific mRNA, with respect to the control, is predictive of a recurrence of glioma in the subject.

45. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 44, wherein the tissue sample is histopathologically normal in appearance.

46-47 (Cancelled).

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring RNA.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein the expression level of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA is detected by measuring cDNA.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, wherein a gene expression microarray is used to detect the level of expression of *laminin* α*4*-specific mRNA.

51. (Original Claim) The method of Claim 44, further comprising detecting quantitatively or semi-quantitatively in the sample a level of expression with respect to a normal tissue control, of a gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 3, transforming growth factor-β-induced gene, vascular endothelial growth factor, connective tissue growth factor, human insulin-like growth factor binding protein precursor 5, placental growth factor, transcription factor Ap-2, human insulin-like growth factor II, epidermal growth factor receptor, matrix metalloproteinase-2, keratin 18, vimentin, fibronectin 1, phospholipase A2 receptor, desmoplakin, tropomodulin, tenascin C, and collagen type IV α1 chain, or detecting a combination of expression levels for any of these.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising detecting the overexpression of laminin β1 subunit protein or *laminin β1*-specific mRNA relative to the normal tissue control.

53-74 (Cancelled).

75. (Previously Presented) The new method of Claim 1, further comprising detecting the overexpression of a gene encoding laminin β1 subunit relative to the normal control.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising detecting the overexpression of a gene encoding laminin β1 subunit relative to the normal control.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, further comprising detecting the overexpression of a gene encoding laminin β1 subunit relative to the normal control.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 44, further comprising detecting the overexpression of a gene encoding laminin β1 subunit relative to the normal control.